

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 are amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the specification on page 13, line 17. No new matter is added.

I. Restriction Requirement

Claims 2-5 and 8-22 are withdrawn from consideration as subject to a Restriction Requirement. Because elected claims 1, 6, and 7 are allowable, for the reasons sets forth below, the non-elected claims should be rejoined and allowed.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,334,570 to Beauseigneur et al. ("Beauseigneur"). The Office Action further rejects claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent EP 0 736 503 ("EP 503"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

A. Claims 1 and 7

Without conceding the proprietary of the rejections, independent claims 1 and 7 are amended to more clearly recite various novel features of the claimed invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments. Specifically, claims 1 and 7 are amended to further recite "wherein said mesh cracks in said support layer have an interval from 5 to 20 nm." (emphasis added). Neither Beauseigneur nor EP 503 disclose such a feature.

Beauseigneur and EP 503 do not anticipate claims 1 and 7. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Claim 6

The Office Action asserts that Beauseigneur discloses a catalyst support with an average particle diameter range of 1-100 nanometers. However, claim 6 recites "said metal oxide support layer being a porous layer having an average pore diameter of 10 nm to 30 nm."

Beauseigneur does not teach a metal oxide support layer having an average pore diameter of 10 nm to 30 nm.

Further, Beauseigneur does not teach a correlation between average particle size and average pore size. Thus, while the particles of Beauseigneur are bonded to the walls, the reference nowhere teaches how these particle sizes of particles bonded to the walls are at all related to the pore sizes of pores that are distributed through the walls. The particles in the reference are not even located within the pores, and thus the particle size is completely unrelated to the pore size.

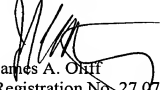
Beauseigneur does not anticipate claim 6. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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